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ABSTRACT

The Institute for Standards, Curricula, and Assessments (ISCA) of the United Teachers Los Angeles Educational Foundation has instituted a lesson study process and support system for teachers that enables them to develop high-quality, standards-based curricula and assessments. This Handbook represents the teachers' best thinking at this time. It is a "work-in-progress," that is, each lesson remains in a state of "needs further refinement" as ISCA continues to improve their teaching through the lesson study process. Lesson study is a process that parallels the scientific method in the applied sciences. Both: investigate a question; use extensive knowledge of and experience in several disciplines; require a research design shaped by a question, and allow for collaboration and the systematic collection of complex data throughout the process to modify plans and procedures; require careful examination of data and subsequent changes in the way things are done or thought about based on analysis of the data; and publish and disseminate findings through an institutionalized process. Following an Introduction, the Handbook is divided into the following chapters: (1) Lesson Study: Designing Standards-Based Curricular Units and Assessments; (2) Standards-Based, On-Demand Performance Assessments: Writing, Literary Elements Analysis, and Reading Comprehension; (3) Standards-Based Curricular Units; and (4) Next Steps: Professionalize Teaching to Improve Student Teaching. Contains a glossary of literary terms. (Contains 75 references.) (NKA)

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